

Judge Richard F. McDermott

Judge McDermott was appointed to the King County Superior Court bench on March 2, 2000, by Governor Gary Locke. He assumed the position previously occupied by the Hon. James Bates, who had passed away earlier that year.

Judge McDermott began his career as a Deputy Prosecutor in the Office of the King County Prosecuting Attorney. He then served as a Public Defender before moving to private practice in civil law from 1978 to 2000. While in private practice, Judge McDermott served as special district counsel for the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) for seven years, as Vice President of the Washington State Trial Lawyers Association (WSTLA) from 1993-94, and as a member of WSTLA's Board of Governors from 1982-86 and from 1990-94. He also was named one of Washington's "Super Lawyers" by Washington Law and Politics Magazine in 1999.

During his time on the bench, Judge McDermott has served as President of the Washington State Superior Court Judges Association, Chair of the Washington State Board for Court Education, and Presiding Judge for King County Superior Court. In 2010 Judge McDermott was named "Co-Judge of the Year" by the Washington State Bar Association. In May 2011 he was named "Judge of the Year" by the Washington State Association for Justice. In November 2013 he was named Judge of the Year by the Washington State Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates.

Judge McDermott received his undergraduate degree from Seattle University, where he also was student body president, and his law degree from the University of Washington. He has been an adjunct professor of law at Seattle University's School of Law since 1999 and currently teaches professional responsibility (ethics) to second- and third-year law students. He received the "Outstanding Faculty" award from the graduating class of December 2004. He served on the Washington State Minorities and Justice Commission from 1993 to 2011. He has been married to his wife, Susan, for over 37 years and has three adult children.